

Climate Policy and Regional Development Master Programme

training program

For students who start in the fall semester of 2026/2027



Climate Policy and Regional Development Master Programme

Valid: for students starting in semester 2026/2027/1

General information:

Supervisor: Anna Zsófia Széchy, Associate Professor

Training location: in Budapest

Working hours: full-time

Training language: english

Whether you are enrolled in dual training: no

Specialisations: No specialisations

Training and output requirements

1. Title of the master's programme:

- a) in English: climate policy and regional development master programme
- b) in Hungarian: klímapolitika és regionális fejlesztés mesterképzési szak

2. The level of qualification attainable in the master's programme, and the title of the certification:

- a) in Hungarian: okleveles közgazdász klímapolitika és regionális fejlesztés szakon
- b) in English: economist in climate policy and regional development

3. Classification of the master's degree:

3.1 Classification by field of training: economic sciences

3.2 Classification of the level of education:

- Master's degree (magister, master of science abbreviated as MSc)
- ISCED 2011: 7
- according to the European Framework: 7
- according to the Hungarian Qualifications Framework: 7

3.3 International Standard Classification of Education field of education code: 0311

3.4 degree orientation: balanced (40-60 percent)

4. Training duration, in semesters: 2 semesters

5. The number of credits to be completed for the master's degree: 60 credits

6. Master's degree training objectives and professional competences:

6.1 The aim of the training:

The aim of the programme is to train experts who, building on their knowledge in the fields of economics, climate and other policies, economic geography and regional development, are capable of analyzing environmental issues in a holistic way, taking into account economic and social factors, uncovering the problems and development possibilities of sectors (such as energy, food and tourism) and regions impacted by climate change. They are capable of advising and creatively contributing to the formulation of policies, development strategies and plans aimed at creating climate resilience on the international, national, regional and settlement level. They are suited to individually carrying out analytical, planning and research tasks as well as to working in teams and leading teams in the public, non-profit, academic and private sectors. Graduates of the programme are prepared to continue their studies at the PhD level.

6.2 The acquired professional competences:

6.2.1 A graduate of the programme will have the following

a) knowledge:

- understands the theoretical foundations (environmental economics, ecological economics) and mechanism of environmental policy tools. Knows the fundamental principles and main elements of EU environmental policy;
- knows the possible solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation and the policy tools used to support these (including their applicability and potential advantages/disadvantages);
- understands the various levels of climate governance (international, national and local) and the different responses given to climate change in various countries and regions, notably the climate policy of the EU;
- understands the key elements of the sustainable and climate resilient transformation of key sectors (energy, food, tourism), and on the regional level;
- knows the basic concepts and theoretical models of regional economic geography, the geographical differences in the development of the global cultural regions, the main site-specific problems affecting their economic geographic patterns, the most important regional economic geographical relationships between climate, other natural and social processes;
- knows the theoretical foundations of quantitative methods and territorial statistical and geoinformational procedures for processing data relevant to the modelling of social and environmental processes;
- knows the social function of spatial planning, its role in sustainable development and its different approaches and possible instruments. Is familiar with national and EU policy frameworks and funding sources relevant to the field. Knows the planning cycle and the system of planning levels;

- understands the key elements of the sustainable and climate resilient transformation on the regional and local level and their specific planning instruments.

b) skills:

- analyzes the (economic, environmental and social) advantages and disadvantages of specific policy solutions to address various environmental issues;
- formulates policy recommendations in support of the transition to a low-carbon, climate resilient economy;
- analyzes the geographic, economic and social characteristics shaping the responses of various countries and regions to climate change;
- formulates policy recommendations for the sustainable, climate-resilient development of key sectors (energy, food, tourism);
- explores the local economic and social characteristics, the priorities, and the problems hindering development in the age of climate change, the connections between nature and economic development, the complex economic geographical synthesis;
- applies on a basic level the computer-aided territorial statistical methods and geographical information systems, uses software such as Excel, SPSS and QGIS for modelling climate change and other analyses;
- participates in place-based climate adaptation and sustainability functional planning processes and to make policy recommendations. Compiles the tasks related to the management of development programs, climate strategies and projects, explores the resourcing opportunities,
- coordinates the work of the competent actors involved in the public planning and development process.

c) attitude:

- bases his/her decisions on the best available data, scientific models and economic analyses, while also being aware of their limitations;
- strives to adopt a realistic attitude to the issue of climate change;
- is aware of the values and interests shaping climate policy;
- is sensitive to the economic and social consequences of environmental issues and environmental regulations. Is sensitive to the sustainability implications of policy decisions;
- sensitive and open to the opinions of others during the examination of local economic and social processes and environmental conflicts;
- commits to applying the spatial analysis approach and to making extensive use of the analytical potential of the geographic information and context provided by databases;
- is critical of the utility of policies and support tools in socio-economic-environmental development;
- is open to accept the values and viewpoints of different actors in the planning and evaluation processes taking place in the public sector.

d) autonomy and responsibility:

- translates his/her feelings of concern and responsibility regarding environmental issues into concrete, constructive solution recommendations that take into account the economic and social context;
- is prepared to adopt a value-based position in cases of scientific uncertainty;
- is prepared to negotiate between various values and interests shaping climate policy;
- assumes responsibility to keep sustainability considerations at the forefront while conducting his/her work,
- feels responsible for the adequate use of technical terms of his/her profession in analyses, reports, surveys, other work materials (e.g. climate strategy), and during professional activities;
- assumes responsibility for the retrievability of the created databases, as well as their verifiability and usability by others while independently carrying out territorial analytical tasks (and projects);
- adheres to the ethical standards of the (public) development process during his/her work;
- cooperates with representatives of other fields and sectors.

7. The professional characteristics of the master's degree program, the areas of specialization leading to the qualification, and their credit ratio, on which the program is based:

7.1. Economics: 18-24 credits

7.2. Policy and policy analysis: 12-18 credits

7.3. Geography and Regional: 12-18 credits

7.4. Number of credits allocated for the preparation of the thesis or diploma work: 9 credits

7.5. Minimum credit value assigned to elective courses: 3 credits

8. Requirements for professional practice and practical training: -

9. Special distinguishing features of the program: -

10. Level of foreign language proficiency to be achieved in the case of studies conducted in a foreign language: -

11. The knowledge on which the credit is based is based on a comparison of the knowledge and competences required by the credit transfer committee of the higher education institution for the completion of the studies, and the knowledge and competences acquired previously in the following areas:

11.1. The following courses accepted as prerequisites for admission to the master's program, without a preliminary credit recognition procedure and with full credit value:

- sustainable and circular economy- based tourism,
- agribusiness and rural development management,
- business administration and management,
- communication and media studies,
- international business economics,

- international administration,
- international relations,
- finance and accounting,
- tourism and catering

Bachelor's degree courses.

11.2. Based on a comparison of the knowledge accepted as prerequisites for admission to the master's program and serving as the basis for credit determination, the bachelor's programs not listed in point 11.1. as well as those basic and master's degree programs, or programs under Act LXXX of 1993 on Higher Education, which are accepted by the CTC based on a comparison of the knowledge serving as the basis for credit determination (during the preliminary credit recognition procedure).

11.3. The **minimum number of credits** required for admission to the master's program is **20 credits**, based on a comparison of knowledge acquired through previous studies or equivalent non-formal, informal learning or work experience with the knowledge required for the program in the following areas:

- economic knowledge: **minimum 5 credits**;
- methodological knowledge: **minimum 5 credits**;
- social science knowledge: **minimum 5 credits**;
- subject-specific knowledge (e.g. environmental issues, sustainability issues, public policy, international and national institutions): **minimum 5 credits**.

Admission to the master's program requires that applicants have earned **15 credits** in the listed subject areas based on their previous studies. From the above, a maximum of 5 missing credits may be made up for during the course of the study.

Missing credits in the master's program must be earned in accordance with the study and examination regulations of the higher education institution.

12. Degree thesis/ Dissertation

The aim of the dissertation is to certify the student's knowledge and expertise in a chosen topic, scientific data collection, systematization, analysis and processing related to the chosen topic, discussion of the chosen phenomenon or problem, hypothesis creation, problem solving, analysis of alternative hypotheses, analysis and in refuting the counter-arguments, in a coherent, consistent, language-oriented written explanation of his thoughts, views, positions, statements.

13. Type of Degree thesis

Research thesis

14. Requirements for the issue of a final certificate

The University will issue a final certificate to the student who has obtained

- to the student who has fulfilled the requirements contained in the study and examination regulations and
- obtained the required credits

15. Conditions for admission to the final examination

Joint conditions for admission to the final exam:

- a) obtaining a final certificate,
- b) submission of the dissertation by the deadline,
- c) evaluation of the dissertation with a grade other than „fail”,
- d) registration for the final exam by the deadline,
- e) the student has no overdue payment debt to the University for the given training,
- f) accounted for with assets owned by the University (borrowed books, sports equipment, etc.).

A student who has not fulfilled any of the provisions of the points a)-f) cannot be admitted to the final examination.

16. Parts of the final exam

The final exam consists of an oral defence of the thesis work.

17. Determining the result of the final exam

The arithmetic mean of the following two grades, rounded to two decimal places:

- a) the grade given to the thesis by the reviewer (s) - determined with a five-point qualification - in case of several reviewers the average of the marks of the reviews is rounded to two decimal places, and
- b) the grade obtained for the defense of the dissertation, for the answers to the questions related to the dissertation - established with a five-level qualification.

18. Components of diploma qualification, method of calculation

The result of the diploma is the arithmetic mean of the following two digits, rounded to two decimal places:

- a) the credit-weighted average of the marks of the compulsory and compulsory elective subjects (if the student has taken more than the compulsory elective subjects, then all the subjects taken) in the amount of credits prescribed in the curriculum, and
- b) the result (grade) of the final examination.

19. Conditions for issuing a diploma

A prerequisite for the award of a diploma certifying the completion of higher education studies is the successful completion of the final examination.

MNKPRF26ABP - Climate Policy and Regional Development MSc programme in Budapest, in English, full time training Curriculum for 2026/2027. (1.) fall semester for beginning students

Subject Code	Subject Name	Type	Number of hours per week		Credits	Evaluation	Fall or Spring Semester	Academic year 2026/27		Credits	Course leader	Institute	Requirement		Equivalent subject		OSF
			Lecture	Seminar				1	2				Code	Name	Code	Name	
								Fall semester	Spring semester								
Core courses																	
Economics and policy																	
FENT052NAMB	Climat	C	2	2	6	ex	Fall	6			Anna Zsófia Széchy	Institute of Sustainable Development					yes
FENT054NAMB	Tourism Policy and Governance in a Changing Environment	C	2	2	6	ex	Fall	6			László Kökény	Institute of Sustainable Development					yes
FENT058NAMB	Sustainable Food Security	C	2	2	6	ex	Spring		6		Jeremiás Máté Balogh	Institute of Sustainable Development					yes
FENT056NAMB	Governance of the Energy Transition	C	2	2	6	ex	Spring		6		Anna Zsófia Széchy	Institute of Sustainable Development					yes
Regional geography																	
FENT055NAMB	Contemporary Regional Geography	C	4	0	6	pg	Fall	6			László Botond Jeney	Institute of Sustainable Development					yes
FENT053NAMB	Territorial Statistics and GIS	C	0	4	6	pg	Fall	6			Ágnes Varga	Institute of Sustainable Development					yes
FENT057NAMB	Sustainable Spatial Planning and Development	C	2	2	6	ex	Spring		6		Géza Salamin	Institute of Sustainable Development					yes
Thesis preparation																	
FENT105NAMB	Thesis Seminar	C	0	2	3	pg	Fall	3			Anna Zsófia Széchy	Institute of Sustainable Development					yes
FENT106NAMB	Thesis Writing	C	0	2	6	pg	Spring		6		Anna Zsófia Széchy	Institute of Sustainable Development	FENT105NAMB	Thesis Seminar			yes
Elective courses*																	
	Elective courses	E				pg/ex	Fall, Spring										
	Foreign language	E	0	4	0	s	Fall, Spring				József Erdei	Centre of Foreign Language Education and Research					no
TS00001NMMB	Sports/Physical Education	E	0	2	2	pg	Fall	2			Csaba Vladár	Centre for Physical Educations and Sports					
IOK0001NABB	Hungarian Language SHI I.*	E/C	0	4	3	pg	fall	3			Judit Magyar	Centre of Foreign Language Education and Research					
IOK0004NABB	Hungarian Language SHI II.*	E/C	0	4	3	ex	spring		3		Judit Magyar	Centre of Foreign Language Education and Research					
Total credits (semester)								30	30	60							

Remarks

Type: C=compulsory courses, CE=core elective courses, E=elective (optional) courses, CR=criterion courses

Methods of assessment: ex=exam (exam at the end of the semester, but other forms of assessment are possible during the semester), pg=grade based on the practical assignments given during the course of the semester, s=signature

A subject that can be completed in a preferential study order (PSO) on the basis of Section 92 of the Study and Examination Regulation (SER)

Physical education

Students wishing to take part in sport can take one semester without paying a fee and the following semesters the students can only take physical education with the payment of a specified fee.

Foreign language

During their studies, students can learn a language in the form of paid subjects within the framework of elective subjects.

Curriculum

It is recommended to include the subjects in the schedule according to the sample curriculum. The student may deviate from this, taking into account:

1. the pre-study order,
2. semester of announcing subjects
3. Completion of an average of 30 credits per semester
4. In addition to the compulsory subjects, students may take elective subjects from the offer of elective subjects (see Neptun) as well as foreign languages.
5. A minimum of 2/3 of the required amount of credit must be completed at Corvinus University.

* From master elective subjects, including physical education announced at the Corvinus University of Budapest, 9 credits in total. Hungarian Language is a compulsory subject for the students participating in the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship program in the first two semesters.

The detailed rules related to the admission of the subjects and the completion of the subjects are included in the Study and Examination Regulations!

Please note that curriculum changes are possible!